

REMARKS

This reply is intended as a full and complete response to the Final Office Action dated September 22, 2008.

Claims 58-62 and 64-72 are pending in the application and stand rejected.

Applicant has amended base claim 66 to more clearly recite aspects of the invention. No new matter has been added.

Entry of the foregoing amendments and reconsideration of the claims is respectfully requested.

In Person Interview

Applicant thanks Examiner Singh for his time to discuss this application with the Applicant's representative, Robb Edmonds, on November 25, 2008. Applicant has no further comments to the Examiner's Interview Summary dated November 25, 2008.

Claim Rejections – 35 U.S.C. § 102

Claims 66-68, 71, 72 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Richmond et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,582,252; hereafter "*Richmond*").

Applicant has amended base claim 66, obviating the rejection. *Richmond* does not teach, show, or suggest a pipeline for traversing a topographic feature, wherein the topographic feature is selected from the group consisting of subsea basins, domes, valleys, cliffs, canyons, escarpments, and combinations thereof, as required in amended base claim 66 and those dependent therefrom. Withdrawal of the rejection and allowance of the claims is respectfully requested.

Claims 66-69, 71, and 72 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(a) as being anticipated by Pollack et al. (World Intellectual Property Organization Publication Number 2004/068014A1; hereafter "*Pollack*").

Applicant has amended base claim 66, obviating the rejection. At the very least, *Pollack* does not teach, show, or suggest at least one positively buoyant inverse catenary section disposed between the first and second unbuoyed sections, wherein the positively buoyant inverse catenary section comprises two or more spatially arranged buoyancy solutions directly attached to an outer diameter thereof, as required in base claim 66, as amended, and those dependent therefrom. For at least these reasons, withdrawal of the rejection and allowance of the claims is respectfully requested.

Claims 58-59, 61-62, 64-65 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(a) as being anticipated by *Pollack*.

Applicant respectfully traverses the rejection. At the very least, *Pollack* does not teach, show, or suggest a distributed buoyancy region comprising two or more spatially arranged discrete buoyancy solutions directly attached to said distributed buoyancy region to create a positively buoyant inverse catenary section connecting said first and said second pipeline sections in fluid communication, as required in base claim 58 and those dependent therefrom. For at least these reasons, withdrawal of the rejection and allowance of the claims is respectfully requested.

Claim Rejections – 35 U.S.C. § 103

Claim 69 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over *Richmond*. Claim 70 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over *Richmond* in view of *Moses et al.* (U.S. Patent No. 5,615,977; hereafter "*Moses*"). Claims 60 and 70 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over *Pollack* in view of *Moses*.

Applicant respectfully traverses the rejections. *Richmond* and *Pollack* have been discussed and distinguished above. *Moses* adds nothing to the deficiencies of *Pollack*. Base claims 58 and 66 are in condition for allowance for reasons discussed above. Since claims 60, 69, and 70 include all of the limitations of claim 58 or 66, claims 60, 69, and 70 are allowable for at least the same reasons. Withdrawal of the rejection and allowance of the claims is respectfully requested.

Conclusion

Having addressed all issues set out in the Office Action, Applicant respectfully submits that the pending claims are now in condition for allowance. Applicant invites the Examiner to telephone the undersigned attorney if there are any issues outstanding which have not been addressed to the Examiner's satisfaction.

If any fees are due with the noted amendments, the Director is hereby authorized to charge any fees associated with this filing to Deposit Account Number 11-0400 in the name of Kellogg Brown & Root LLC.

Respectfully submitted,

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Date

Robb D. Edmonds
Robb D. Edmonds
Attorney for Applicant
Registration No. 46,681

EDMONDS PC
16815 Royal Crest Drive
Suite 130
Houston, Texas 77058
Phone: 281-480-2700
Fax: 281-480-2701

Please mail correspondence to the address associated with **customer number 32583.**

Christian Heausler
IP Legal Department
Kellogg Brown & Root LLC
4100 Clinton Drive
Houston, Texas 77020